

duration of a union organizing drive. The trucks had these large signs posted which said, "Mexico Transfer Job."

So it is clear that people are making threats against workers ever time workers try to claim their rights.

The report makes no mention of health hazards or food hazards of the transporter trucking problem. NAFTA opened the floodgates to tainted food from Mexico. U.S. border inspectors are absolutely overwhelmed. Fewer than 1 percent of the 3.3 million trucks entering the United States each year are inspected. In about 6 weeks, Madam Speaker, this Congress will be deciding whether to spread NAFTA's poor performance over the entire hemisphere.

This is the meaning of the fast track vote. What we know about NAFTA's first 3 years does not justify spreading it throughout the hemisphere. As recently as March 18, 1997, a top official at the U.S. Trade Representative's Office said in a debate with me on national television that they could back up job growth estimates with specific companies, specific cities and towns where the growth has occurred, but they have not.

I think supporters of NAFTA should go back to the drawing board and report accurately and fully the effects of NAFTA. Congress should not give the President special fast track authority to expand NAFTA. We should look for ways to protect the American worker, protect American jobs, and assure that our economy will have the ability to prepare America for the new century.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE of Ohio) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know, O God, that the lives of people are filled with all the emotions of the human heart, from the joy and gladness of love and peace to the disappointments and frustrations that cloud the day and trouble the soul. Yet, O gracious God, whatever our mood or whatever our situation in life, You are constant in Your grace and faithful in Your promises. For these gifts and all the confidence You bring to us and to all people, we offer these words of thanksgiving and gratitude. In Your name we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SALMON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2203. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2203) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. REID, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. DORGAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes from each side.

#### LANDMARK OCCASION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, this is the dawn of good news for the hard-working taxpaying Americans.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the budget team, the negotiators from both sides of the aisle, both Democrat and Republican, for reaching a tentative budget agreement. As is the case with all compromise, the negotiated tax package does not contain everything or every provision that I would like. It does, however, contain many provisions that will dramatically improve the lives of hard-working men and women throughout this country.

Starting next year, the death tax exemption will jump to 1.3 million for small businesses and family farms, making it easier for parents to pass the family business onto their children. Most importantly, Madam Speaker, this budget agreement exemplifies the Republican message that working men and women in America should be allowed to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend as they see fit. This is a landmark occasion, and I urge my colleagues to support it, the tax relief bill tomorrow, when it comes to the floor.

#### DEMOCRATS CAN BE PROUD

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I am proud of the role the Democrats took in this budget deal to guarantee that working families got their fair share of the tax cuts. While the Republicans were fighting for Wall Street, the capital gains or estate tax breaks, Democrats were fighting for Main Street, the education and child tax credits. We wanted to make sure that the education and child tax credits went to all working Americans, including those with incomes less than \$30,000, who the Republicans wanted to cut out of the child tax credit.

Democrats also fought the battle and won to provide health insurance to the majority of the Nation's 10 million uninsured children. President Clinton wisely insisted on an increase in the tobacco tax to provide a larger amount, \$24 million to insure kids; and Democrats in the House, including our health care task force, pushed to close loopholes so the money could not be siphoned away for other purposes and would provide an adequate benefit package.

Madam Speaker, we still have to look at the details before we crow too much, but the general outlines of the agreement show that Democrats can be proud of their fight to stand up for the interests of working families.

#### COACH RON POLK

(Mr. PICKERING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take notice of a very special man, Coach Ron Polk. He served as the head baseball coach at Mississippi State University for 20 years, where he led his Bulldogs to the college world series five times.

Coach Polk has compiled an incredible record at Mississippi State with a record 888 wins. Last February, he became only the 16th coach in college baseball history to reach the 1,000 win pinnacle.

He has been selected as the National Coach of the Year on two separate occasions and coached the U.S. Olympic